



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

CORRECTION: In the review of *Therapeutic Radiology* by William T. Moss, M.D., that appeared on page 56 of the July issue of CALIFORNIA MEDICINE, the second sentence of the fifth paragraph should have read: The author appears to favor the Curie Foundation current program of about 5,000 rads in six weeks. The figure 500 rads was in error.

THE ANATOMY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—Tenth Edition—Its Development and Function—Stephen Walter Ranson, M.D., Ph.D., Late Professor of Neurology and Director of Neurological Institute, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. Revised by Sam Lillard Clark, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anatomy, The Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1959. 622 pages, \$9.50.

Through successive editions this classic textbook of neuroanatomy has been kept abreast of the times to a very satisfactory extent. Also, it has followed the modern trend for anatomists to become more and more physiologically oriented, so that the present edition contains much more information of dynamic functioning of the nervous system than was present in early editions. This willingness to move with changing orientation to anatomical studies has made the book of continuing value. As always, illustrations are well chosen and clearly reproduced, and schematic diagrams are clear and not cluttered with such a mass of pathways and legends as to confuse rather than enlighten. The book remains the standard textbook of neuroanatomy for students of medicine.

HENRY NEWMAN, M.D.

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VIRAL AND RICKETTSIAL INFECTIONS OF MAN—Third Edition—Edited by Thomas M. Rivers, M.D., Member Emeritus, The Rockefeller Institute; Vice-President, Medical Affairs, The National Foundation; and Frank L. Horsfall, Jr., M.D., Vice-President for Clinical Studies, Physician-in-Chief to the Hospital, The Rockefeller Institute. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1959. 967 pages, 134 illustrations, \$8.50.

The rapid development of information in regard to viral and rickettsial disease in human beings has accumulated so rapidly since the second edition of this book was printed in 1952 that an additional 250 pages, 7 chapters, and one editor have been required. The simple listing of the bibliographic index has increased from 15 to 23 pages.

The fundamentals of the relationship of the virus and the host are discussed in three new chapters and disease caused by the new groups of adeno- and echoviruses in two others. Many of the others that were present in the previous edition have been completely rewritten and this is, in effect, a new textbook.

This book was designed to provide comprehensive information about viral and rickettsial infections for graduate students in biology, including those preparing for a career in medicine. It is eminently suitable for this purpose. It is also a fascinating storehouse of information for the practic-

ing physician. Clinical and epidemiological descriptions of the various diseases are such that every doctor may read them with profit. This book is very highly recommended.

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PSYCHOENDOCRINOLOGY—Edited by Max Reiss, M.D., D.Sc., Neuroendocrine Research Unit, Willowbrook State School, Staten Island, N. Y. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1958. 208 pages, \$7.00.

This book consists of 16 separate contributions by a variety of authors designed to correlate recent advances in knowledge regarding endocrine function with psychopathology. The lead article by Reiss reviews some of the early misconceptions regarding the role of endocrines in human behavior and the disappointments which inevitably followed their indiscriminate use as primary therapeutic agents in mental and emotional disorders. He points out that recent studies have revealed a greater variability in endocrine function in schizophrenics than in normals and emphasizes the need for individual study of each case. Identical endocrine disturbance can be accompanied by a wide variety of psychopathological manifestations because of the basic variation in personality patterns. In the presence of both stress and hormonal imbalance, no symptoms may develop if a personality is stable. It is emphasized that disturbed endocrine function is only one of several factors that may contribute to impaired adaptation and breakdown.

Because of the intimate relationship that exists between neuronal activity of the brain and the pituitary (mediated through the hypothalamus), emotional disturbances can influence the entire endocrine system of the body. Specific endocrine disturbances are presumed to have a genetic basis.

Cases of mental illness associated with hypothyroidism are described in which dramatic recovery followed the administration of thyroid medication. It is suggested that negative results described by others were the result of treating heterogeneous groups of patients with thyroid medication rather than just those with proved hypothyroidism. Failure to improve patients with psychotherapy is believed at times to be the result of some unrecognized and untreated endocrine abnormality. In other articles, it is pointed out, that endocrine unbalance may exist in the absence of any clinically manifest signs and can be detected only by careful systematic investigation and that endocrine disturbances are frequently present in juvenile and many other types of emotional disorders.

In general, the book provides an excellent summary of current thinking of those who are studying psycho-endocrine interrelationships. However, in evaluating the dramatic results which are attributed to endocrine treatment, it is important to remember that many subtle forces operate in any kind of treatment of patients with emotional disorders and there is need for caution and conservatism in evaluating the results of any kind of treatment.

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